

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) A method for planning a merger of at least two organizations on a computer, the method comprising:

providing a first interface for a first organization adapted to allow a user to plan a project with a resource management capability and a time management capability;
providing a second interface for a second organization adapted to provide collaborative capabilities to a plurality of merger members to plan the project with said resource management and said time management, said first and second interfaces forming a collaborative workspace between said first organization and said second organization;
and

providing one or more tools graphically displayed on at least one of said interfaces adapted to allow a user to exchange merger information and aid in collaboration with a person said plurality of said organizational members associated with one of the organizations;
wherein said one or more tools provide one or more graphically displayed features including:

a feature for defining one or more milestones,

a feature for choosing one or more resources to assign to one or more tasks
or said one or more milestones,
a feature for selecting when said one or more tasks is scheduled for
completion, and
a feature for detecting and displaying interdependencies between tasks.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the at least one of said~~ first interface and second interface further comprises:

a communications interface,
an information sessions interface, and,
one or more interfaces for a manager to communicate merger information with one or
more employees includes a planning the period, wherein the second interface permits creating,
posting, storing, and sharing information, and wherein the person is selected from a class
consisting of managers, employees, customers, partners, suppliers, consultants, analysts and
specialists.

3. – 20 (cancelled)

21. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein said merger information further comprises:
progress information regarding said merger,
questions and answers between said employees and said manager,
communications between said employees and said manager; and

wherein said interfaces are adapted to allow multiple users to access and view said interfaces.

22. (new) The method of claim 2 wherein

 said interfaces further include:

 interactive polls,

 questionnaires,

 archived polls,

 archived question responses, and

 a menu of various template types and formats.

23. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein

 said at least one tool includes a collaboration tool adapted to permit a user to create:

 chat sessions and other interactive discussions,

 online meetings,

 synchronized browsing,

 checklists for financial objectives with deadlines and specific individuals who are responsible for said checklists, and

 sub-checklists for related actions.

24. (new) The method of claim 1 wherein

 said interfaces are connected to a source system, wherein

said interfaces and said source system communicate with network communication interfaces of a base system using a markup language.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 wherein

 said communication interfaces include one or more of enterprise connector interfaces, internet communication interfaces, en encapsulated postscript interfaces, and interfaces that provide remote function call capability.

26. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

 said interfaces further providing graphical display features for a stakeholder to:
 arrange meetings,
 start discussion threads, and
 personalize panels for individual tasks, deliverables and meetings.

27. (new) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

 providing a search query interface in at least one of said first and second interfaces comprising one or more search fields in the interface that allow a user to enter a search parameter for at least one merger organization, wherein the search parameter comprises an attribute of an activity, a group name, a group alias, a group administrator, a qualification, an interest, and a profile of an individual.

28. (new) An article comprising a machine readable storage medium having a plurality of instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

providing a first interface for a first organization adapted to plan a project with a resource management capability and a time management capability;

providing a second interface for a second organization adapted to provide collaborative capabilities to plan the project with said resource management and said time management, said first and second interfaces forming a collaborative workspace between said first organization and said second organization; and

providing one or more tools graphically displayed on at least one of said interfaces adapted to allow a user to exchange merger information and aid in collaboration with said plurality of said organizational members;

wherein said one or more tools provide one or more features that:

define one or more milestones,

choose one or more resources to assign to one or more tasks or said one or more milestones,

select when said one or more tasks is scheduled for completion, and

detect and display interdependencies between tasks.

29. (new) The article of claim 28, wherein at least one of said first interface and second interface further comprises:

a communications interface,

an information sessions interface, and.

one or more interfaces for a manager to communicate merger information with one or more employees.

30. (new) The article of claim 29 wherein said merger information further comprises:

progress information regarding said merger,
questions and answers between said employees and said manager,
communications between said employees and said manager; and
said interfaces are adapted to allow multiple users to access and view said interfaces at any time.

31. (new) The article of claim 29 wherein

said interfaces further include:

interactive polls,
questionnaires,
archived polls,
archived question responses, and
a menu of various template types and formats.

32. (new) The article of claim 28, wherein

said at least one tool includes a collaboration tool;
said collaboration tool is further adapted to permit a user to create:
chat sessions and other interactive discussions,
online meetings,

synchronized browsing,
checklists for financial objectives with deadlines and specific individuals who are
responsible for said checklists, and
sub-checklists for related actions.

33. (new) The article of claim 28 wherein

 said interfaces are connected to a source system, wherein
 said interfaces and said source system communicate through base system connectors
 using a markup language.

34. (new) The article of claim 33 wherein

 said base system connectors are include one or more of: enterprise connector interfaces,
 internet communication interfaces, encapsulated postscript interfaces, and interfaces that provide
 remote function call capability.

35. (new) The article of claim 28, further comprising:

 said interfaces further permitting stakeholder to:
 arrange meetings,
 start discussion threads, and
 personalize panels for individual tasks, deliverables and meetings.

36. (new) The article of claim 28 further comprising:

 providing a search query interface in at least one of said first and second interfaces,

wherein the search query interface further comprises one or more search fields in the interface that allow a user to enter a search parameter for at least one merger organization, wherein the search parameter comprises an attribute of an activity, a group name, a group alias, a group administrator, a qualification, an interest, and a profile of an individual.